

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 4, before this line insert the following paragraph heading:

FIELD AND BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, line 28, before this line insert the following paragraph heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, please replace the four consecutive paragraphs beginning at line 34 with the following three consecutive rewritten paragraphs:

~~Claim 1~~ The invention provides first and foremost that the latching means can be moved out of their latching position by pressure on an actuating zone associated with the end side of the handle. The handle is preferably elongate in form, with two end sides that face away from one another. The blade or a blade holder can project out of one end side. The other end side forms a handle cup which lies in the palm of the hand when the handle is gripped as it is taken hold of. In a first variant of the

invention, this end side of a screwdriver handle, which is also referred to as the cup, is to form the actuating zone. It is preferable for the actuating zone to be formed by a push-button. This push-button is preferably located in a pot-shaped cutout in the end side of the handle. The end face of the push-button may in this case have a central hollow. The edge of this hollow may project beyond the opening edge of the cutout. The push-button preferably has soft or rounded edges, such that it does not dig into the user's hand to a disruptive extent when the handle is gripped. In a preferred configuration of the invention, the latching of the two handle parts is only eliminated when the push-button has been displaced a certain distance into the cutout. The latching is cancelled in particular when the end face of the push-button is located below the opening edge of the cutout. This configuration effectively avoids inadvertent cancelling of the latching. The latching means may be a spring tongue which has a latching projection at its free end and which interacts with a latching step. The spring tongue may in this case be associated with the core part and the latching step with the handle part that includes the cavity. In this case, the spring tongues, which may be formed integrally with the material of the core, project in the axial direction from the end portion of the core. It is possible to provide a plurality of spring tongues located diametrically opposite one another. It is preferable for these spring tongues to be displaced by actuating cams of the push-button. For this purpose, the spring tongues may have control slopes which are acted on in a corresponding way by the actuating cam or a differently configured actuating element of the push-button. It is preferable for the two handle parts to

be displaceable from the closed position into the open position by the force of a prestressed spring after pressure on the actuating zone. The spring force is less than the latching force of the latching means. The spring stress can only be relieved after actuation of the push-button. In this case, in a preferred variant of the invention, the two handle parts are moved apart until they reach a stop position, in which the screwdriver bits located in the storage chamber can be removed.

The object is also achieved by further embodiment of the invention ~~specified in Claim 12, which Claim 12~~ provides first and foremost that the latching means leaves its latching position through pressure on an actuating zone. The mating catch may be a latching step. The actuating zone may be associated with the handle part that includes the cavity. According to the invention, the cancelling of the latching, which is a precondition for the two handle parts to be moved apart, can only be done deliberately by pressing on the actuating zone. In a preferred refinement of the invention, it is provided that the latching means is a pivotable spring tongue which has a latching projection at its free end. This spring tongue is located with its latching projection in front of a step of the handle part that includes that cavity. Only when the spring tongue is displaced radially inward, so that the latching projection is moved out of the path of movement of the latching step, can the two handle parts be moved axially apart in order for the storage chamber to be opened. For the radial displacement of the latching projection, it is necessary to press on the actuating zone. This pressure continues through the wall of the cavity on to the spring tongue.

It is preferable for the actuating zone to be formed by a soft plastic inlay in the outer wall of the handle part that includes the cavity. It is advantageous if two latching means, each with an associated actuating zone, are located diametrically opposite one another. The two actuating zones are then offset by 180° with respect to one another. When the screwdriver handle is gripped, there is no harm if pressure is applied to just one of the two actuating zones during the screwing action. It has been found that in the standard grip positions of the hand, a diametral pressure is not exerted with respect to the handle. When the handle is gripped, the thumb presses against the handle lateral surface on one side. The handle is held by the index finger on the diametrically opposite side. In this case, the zone of the handle lateral surface which lies diametrically opposite the thumb is in the joint crook between the second and third phalanxes of the index finger. Even if the handle is gripped from above, no two diametrically opposite zones are subject to the application of pressure. The axial portion in which the two diametrically opposite actuating zones are located is held between thumb, index finger and ring finger in a three-point grip. In a refinement of the invention, it is provided that the spring tongue is formed integrally with the material of the core. In this case, the spring tongue may be formed by a wall section of a wall of a compartment for receiving a screwdriver bit. Furthermore, it is advantageous if the application of radial force to the latching means does not take place directly via the soft plastic inlay, but rather via an actuating arm and an actuating cam formed by it. The actuating cam in this case presses on the spring tongue in order to pivot it. The actuating

arm may be formed by a U-shaped cut-free part of a hard plastic sleeve which forms the grip part that includes the cavity.

Overall, however, the object is also achieved by yet another embodiment of the invention-specified in Claim 20 as described hereinafter.

Page 7, line 4 before this line insert the following paragraph heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 8, line 11 before this line insert the following paragraph heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

Page 13, line 17 delete this paragraph starting with the word "All".